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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Western, et al )  
 )  
Filed: November 20, 2001 )  
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Serial No.: 9/989,757 )  
 )  
Title: Detection of Nucleic Acids by )  
Target-Catalyzed Product Formation )  
 )  
Atty Docket No.: BEH-7270D )

Group Art Unit 2556

Examiner: Unknown

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND  
CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicants wish to bring the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449 to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of documents identified with an asterisk (\*) on the PTO-1449 were previously submitted in the prior applications upon which applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. §120. Attached is a copy of the PTO-1449 submitted in the parent cases.

Applicants believe that no fee is due, in as much as there has been no office action. However, if any fee is due, please charge the fee or any additional amount required for filing this document to our Deposit Account No. 04-0010. This authorization is provided in triplicate for accounting purposes.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to substitute for the Examiner's own search. It is believed, however, that this Disclosure Statement will assist

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

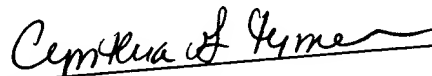
I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2002.

Maria Salgado  
Maria Salgado

the Examiner in the search. The Examiner is expressly requested to review each item cited herein and to make all of the cited items of record in this case as having been considered. The completed Form PTO-1449 is attached for this purpose.

Citation of the items herein is not to be construed as an admission that the information is within the scope and content of the prior art relevant to the present invention, that the information is prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the present patent application, that the information is otherwise prior art with respect to the present invention, or that the information cited is material to the claims. In addition, applicants reserve the right to later set forth how the present invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other prior art, including the information cited herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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